



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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BRIG O' TURK MIRES

Site of Special Scientific Interest

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 262

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Purpose



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced. This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this Statement.

Natural features of Brig o' Turk Mires SSSI	Feature condition (date monitored)	Other relevant designations
Valley Fen	Favourable, maintained (May 2007 & June 2009)	None

Description of the site

Brig o' Turk Mires SSSI is situated near the village of Brig o' Turk, 9 kilometres to the west of Callander, and within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

Brig o' Turk Mires is an SSSI because of its relatively undisturbed and extensive valley mire system. Valley mires develop where nutrient poor water from rainfall and from the catchment (they often occur beside watercourses in small valleys) creates conditions suitable for the development of nutrient poor fen. At Brig o' Turk there are also localised areas of nutrient enrichment (flushes) and the juxtaposition of low nutrient and nutrient-rich wetlands is a rare and unusual feature rarely found elsewhere in the Stirling Council area. Associated with the valley mire are areas of swamp and fringing fen/marsh. The site supports a variety of plant species, including tall bog-sedge, fairy flax and the locally rare marsh orchid.

The valley fen feature was monitored in September 2007 and June 2009. Although the site is considered to be in favourable, maintained condition, there are some problems relating to slurry runoff in the area adjacent to the stock feeding area, on the west side of the site.

Past and present management

The wetland core of this SSSI was part of the former Brig o' Turk curling pond.

Management to maintain the open water for curling purposes ceased many years ago with a resultant succession from open water to marsh plant communities.

The SSSI has been owned and managed by the Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS) since

the 1990s, including part of the site which was previously owned by The Forestry Commission Scotland. The site is managed as part of the whole Glen Finglas estate, which aims to promote sustainable, integrated land use. The SSSI is subject to medium-intensity cattle grazing using Luing cattle – a key management activity which helps to maintain the open, species-rich character of the area.

A stock feeding area has been constructed on the west side of the site, and this is currently causing some slurry run-off leading to localised nutrient and sediment enrichment of the adjacent fen. Proposals are currently being developed to address these issues and ensure compliance with changing environmental legislation.

There has also been some regeneration of birch on drier areas of the fen and some development of willow scrub in the south-west of the site - ideally these should be removed or felled to waste into the wetter areas whilst still of a small size.

WTS is also committed to providing extensive public access to the Glen Finglas estate and a boardwalk has been constructed across the drier parts of the site as part of an extensive path network. This has enabled greater public enjoyment of this attractive and important wetland site.

WTS have a Glen Finglas Management Plan covering the period 1999 – 2023.

Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with land managers to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest. SNH aims to carry out site survey, monitoring and research as appropriate, to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural features and monitor the effectiveness of the management plan.

A list of Operations Requiring Consent, and the discussions on land management involved in the issuing of formal consents, are intended to minimise the threat of any damage to the natural features.

1. To maintain the condition and extent of the valley fen.

Maintain the ecology and hydrology of this wetland site by continuing the grazing regime at appropriate levels; managing the stock feeding area to prevent slurry runoff and artificial nutrient-enrichment of the fen; and removing small areas of birch and willow scrub which are encroaching on some areas of the site.

2. Encourage public access to, and enjoyment of, the valley fen.

Continue to work with WTS to provide information and advice about access and about the site.

Date last reviewed: 8 October 2009